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## NATURAL INFRASTRUCTURE FOR WATER SECURITY (NIWS)

Peru is vulnerable to hydrological and climatic extremes. Droughts, fires, floods, and landslides in recent years demonstrate the acute water crisis Peru faces, which is only intensifying with population growth and climate change. Natural infrastructure (like forests and wetlands) increase resilience of both upstream communities and downstream water users to these risks. USAID and Canada are working together to scale-up efforts to protect and restore natural infrastructure while addressing gender inequities that are incompatible with a water- and climate-secure future.

### HOW DOES THE ACTIVITY WORK?

Canada and USAID are working to enable natural infrastructure (NI) investment and efforts to address gender inequities in water management, beginning with political and public awareness to support a common vision. We work closely with planners and policymakers to incorporate NI into planning instruments and address policy bottlenecks to scale effective natural infrastructure investments.

We work with universities, technical institutions, and decision-makers to identify knowledge and information gaps related to the benefits of NI in Peru; collect state-of-the art data to address those gaps; and develop guidelines and tools to improve NI interventions.

We help develop portfolios of NI investments and break through bottlenecks to mobilize investments, focusing these efforts on priority watersheds: Chira-Piura, Chillón-Rímac-Lurin-Alto Mantaro (Lima and Junin), Quilca-Chili (Arequipa), Tambo-Moquegua, Mayo (San Martin) and Vilcanota-Urubamba (Cusco).

## RESULTS ACHIEVED

- NIWS has mobilized \$3.5 million in NI investments and facilitated implementation of the first NI investments in critical geographies and sectors, including Lima's drinking water sector and the national Reconstruction with Changes program.
- NIWS has built a portfolio of over \$286 million in NI investments in development. The portfolio consists of over 50 projects developed with 243 communities in 20 Peruvian watersheds to respond to risks prioritized at the watershed scale by a range of actors including regional governments, water utilities, and Reconstruction with Changes.
- NIWS developed a suite of more than 10 new tools to address critical gaps in the identification, design, and management of NI investments. This includes HIRO (rapid-focus GIS tool for identifying NI investment priorities) and CUBHIC, a series of methods that allow rapid quantification of the water benefits of NI interventions. Over 700 professionals from a range of public and private institutions report using these tools, including from the Ministries of Agriculture and Irrigation (MIDAGRI); Environment (MINAM); Housing, Sanitation and Construction (MVCS); the National Water Authority (ANA), regional governments and the Reconstruction with Changes Authority.
- NIWS has increased credibility and clarity for decision-makers regarding the water benefits of NI, including through a series of 6 systematic reviews of the scientific literature and >10 original research activities, 3 of which have been published in distinguished scientific journals.
- NIWS contributed to developing the OECD recommendations for Peru on water governance, both by supporting the Water Policy and Governance Dialogues organized by MINAM and through contributing technical recommendations and analysis.
- Working closely with our partners MINAM, ANA, the national water utility regulator (SUNASS), and water companies, we have developed and secured regulatory changes that accelerate investments in NI and strengthen multi-sectoral water management. For example, SUNASS' MERESE Directive (2019) streamlines the process for water utility investments in watershed management, ANA's resolution on watershed councils (2018) ensures representation of drinking water users in watershed governance, and MINAM's IOARR guidelines (2019) allow for NI investments to take a short-cut previously only available to investments gray infrastructure, reducing time from idea to implementation by up to 80%.
- MINAM approved a new Supreme Decree for the protection of wetlands. The new rule introduces specific penalties for the most critical threats to wetlands, including the extraction of peat for commercial purposes that NIWS has documented. In addition, it clarifies the roles and

responsibilities of various sectors and organizations (MINAM, PRODUCE, SERFOR, INAIGEM, SERNANP, ANA, OEFA, OSINFOR, regional and local governments) in the management and conservation of wetlands.

- NIWS has supported Peru's primary water management institutions: ANA and SUNASS have developed their first gender gaps assessments and work plans. Furthermore, SUNASS has led transformative changes by approving its first regulatory instrument of SUNASS that explicitly considers gender (2019) and its Gender Equality Policy (2021). SUNASS is the third Peruvian public entity to approve an institutional gender equality policy.
- Over 72 women leaders have been recognized for and strengthened in their leadership in water management, through NIWS' innovative Women's Leadership Program for Water Management, developed with the support of the Ministry of Women and Vulnerable Populations
- 200 journalists and communications professionals from various water sector institutions have been trained to improve communication on natural infrastructure, gender equality, and water security. These efforts included organizing the first two annual meetings of a national meeting of Communicators for Water Management, "Voices for Water."
- 5,000 professionals from national and subnational governments, water companies and civil society have been trained to design, monitor and manage natural infrastructure projects, including through a Massive Open Online Course developed with SUNASS and the National Public Administration School (ENAP).

## PROJECT INFORMATION

**IMPLEMENTER:** Forest Trends

**PARTNERS:** Consortium for the Sustainable Development of the Andean Ecoregion (CONDESAN), the Peruvian Society for Environmental Law (SPDA), EcoDecision and Imperial College London

**PROJECT DURATION:** December 6, 2017 to June 5, 2023

**USAID FUNDING:** \$15,000,000

**CANADA FUNDING:** \$12,500,000

**REGIONS:** Arequipa, Cusco, Lima, Moquegua, Piura, and San Martín

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